

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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6-100-10-10-10

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CORPORATION

TO: MR. R. J. BOYLE - INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE: St. Louis Park
FROM: H. L. Finch DATE: October 26, 1966
SUBJECT: 10-13-1966 FIRE - W O 267 A

On October 13, 1966, at approximately 6:30 PM, a fire broke out in the insulation on our #19 tank in the Refinery. The fire was caused by the ignition of vapor soaked insulation on #19 tank, which we believe resulted from two causes:

- 1.) A gasket leak in our air condenser was found after the explosion in our #20 tank.
- 2.) As a result of the explosion in #20 tank, it was necessary to remove the air condenser and vapor line from our #19 tank and vent the tank into the atmosphere. Some soaking of the insulation resulted from this operation. It might be noted that because of the explosion in #20 tank it was necessary to use #19 tank to receive the material direct from the stills. Tank #19 was used as a substitute for our #20 tank.

The events that occurred just prior to the fire might be mentioned. The still fireman had just returned to his still room, after looking over the #19 and #20 tank area. The janitor in the office had looked out the window and saw a fire around #19 and #20 tank and rushed out to the still room to notify the still fireman, who could hardly believe that there was a fire there since he had just returned from that area. By the time, however, the still fireman looked at the fire he thought it necessary to call the fire department as it was beyond what he thought he could handle. The fire was actually burning on the building side or the east side of #19 storage tank.

The damage caused by the fire is as follows:

- a.) Damage to insulation on tanks #18, #19 and #20. Estimate complete insulation of tank #19 about \$5000.00. Additional damage to tank #20 about \$2000.00. Damage to tank #18 about \$1000.00. The preceding figures also include the removal of damaged insulation.
- b.) The motor on #20 tank needed complete rewinding and the motor on the mixer of #19 tank needed repairing. The header and the piping leading away from the tank that is heated by induction coils must have the induction coil and insulation replaced. Estimated repairs approximately \$2000.00.
- c.) Piping, valves, vent line and repairs necessary to get back into operation, with work being performed to include Saturday and Sunday, \$6500.00.
- d.) Gauges on #19 and #20 completely destroyed. Replacement estimated at \$400.00.

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- e.) Repairs to building adjacent to tank, including windows, \$200.00.
- f.) Reilly labor used to clean up after fire, \$1000.00.

Moorhead Machinery & Boiler Company were on the job site for the repairs to tank #20 as a result of the explosion and, therefore, were most readily available to handle the fire occurring on storage #19. They have handled the project for us on this phase of the work.

Since the Armstrong Contracting & Supply Corporation were in the process of completing the insulation of storage #20, before it blew up, and being that they were low on the last three tanks that required insulation, we have awarded the insulation repairs of all three tanks to Armstrong. Their quotation now stands at \$8043.00 for the fire occurring on storage #19 and \$1120.00 for the damage that occurred as a result of the explosion on #20 tank.

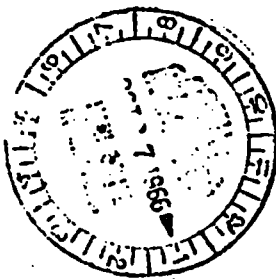
SUMMARY - #19 FIRE LOSS

Insulation repairs #18, #19 and #20- - - - -	\$ 8000.00
Wiring and electrical- - - - -	2000.00
Gauges on #19 and #20- - - - -	400.00
Vents, piping and valves - - - - -	6500.00 *
Building repair- - - - -	200.00
Reilly labor - - - - -	1000.00
	<u>\$18100.00</u>

* There is an overlapping between our explosion loss of October 5th and fire loss of October 13th.

Yours very truly,

H. L. Finch
H. L. Finch



HLF:ds

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